

# Uncle Sam's Spotters---Many New Openings for Clever Women. Investigating Steering Conditions---Detective Bureau

Washington, D. C., February 26.—A lone, lorn woman in the garb of a Bohemian peasant lately cast her lot with a procession of weary Czechs and Moravians which wormed its way through the streets of a European seaport town and across the gangplank of a steamship which tugged restlessly at the harbor, in its impatience to make off for the land of the free that lay across the deep. Although her passport was a counterfeit with a false seal, completely blurred, she had no difficulty in passing the steamship agent, and with the others she passed down into the steerage to embark upon a twelve-day voyage.

This woman of mystery had as a sleeping companion a poor Polish girl who early one evening was lying ill in her meagre bunk. The chief steward—steward—the chief protector of these immigrant women, and their highest court of appeal—sneaked into the lonely compartment and, taking advantage of the girl's weakened condition, attempted to play the fiend. But luckily the woman in Bohemian disguise lay near at hand, and after the brute had been frightened away a full report of his outrage was placed in the hands of the immigrant commission in Washington, of which this alleged peasant was a secret agent. Her report detailed many other outrages perpetrated upon these helpless peasants journeying to our shores. It told how they were first fleeced by the keepers of lodging houses in league with the steamship agents, how they were subjected to a mock vaccination—not even piercing their skins—how they were indifferently accepted by agents posted at the port to exclude undesirable immigrants and how they were herded into the steerage like beasts and fed like swine.

Her secret report also graphically described the degrading conditions in the soapless, towelless steerage wash-rooms used jointly by the men and women, in the feeding rooms where these emphysematic Americans were denied eating plates, knives or spoons; in the sleeping quarters where the crew looked on while the helpless women dressed and undressed, and on the decks where they had to listen to the vile language of and endure the brutal handling of the paid employees of the ship.

Struck Him in the Face. This secret agent thus journeyed back and forth across the water recording all that she saw, and at the same time working hard to rescue innocent girls from the degradation threatening them on all sides. What great courage her crusade required may be judged by several quotations from her official report: "Not one young woman in the steerage escaped attack. The writer herself was no exception," she writes. "Once she had to thwart one of these attacks by delivering 'a hard, unexpected blow in the offender's face' in the presence of a large crowd of men." Some of the women "fought with all of their physical strength" and some battled "with pins and teeth."

Two such woman detectives were employed by the woman immigration commission in this investigation of steerage conditions. Four others, with one man, were disguised as aliens and sent to live in the immigrant homes established in New York and to investigate the immigrant employment agencies, in both classes of which institutions abuses have been suspected.

New Life. Two of the pluckiest woman sleuths in the pay of the government have been engaged in the famous "white slave" investigation. At times and under various pretexts they have associated on apparently friendly terms with the criminal importers and procurers of the unfortunate victims as well as with the degraded men who live upon the earnings of these girls. One of these woman agents, brutally attacked and beaten, escaped being murdered only with the greatest difficulty, and yet the next day she went cheerfully back to her work in another locality where she was unknown.

Other new detective work by government secret agents is in connection with the investigation of organized criminality among aliens in New York. These sleuths have undertaken dangerous assignments in order to obtain the criminal records of immigrants before their arrival in this country. Others have been at work along the Mexican frontier ferreting out the system



A Moonshiner Rounded Up.



Woman Detective Who Works for the Government.

of smuggling Chinese into this country.

Women Who Shadow Deserters.

Many women spotters receive money from the army for bringing deserters to justice. They are not regularly employed, but profit by the uniform fee of \$50 offered by the government to any one who will inform on this class of delinquents. This system, however, offers tremendous opportunities of blackmail and petty "graft" and in several of our large cities there have been a strong suspicion that a certain class of women make it a practice to entice soldiers into brothels and there keep them under the influence of liquor or drugs. It is alleged that the Dellah of this class will then send another woman to inform upon the alleged "deserter" and receive the \$50, which she will then divide. In almost every large city there are women who make revenue out of the detection of de-

serters, some of them by honorable and others by dishonorable means.

Woman Sleuths in Autos. Soon the young ladies were whizzing about on automobile trips through Golden Gate Park, and there were late supper galore here, there and everywhere, the fair detectives taking care to keep their wits sharpened, to be wary of the wine bought for them and to maintain a forbidding attitude, which soon had the gallant grafters vying with one another to lavish gifts. Finally, when extravagant offers of costly jewels and other luxuries were offered, the woman detectives pressed their entertainers for more and more details guaranteeing such future expenditures until gradually the politicians, flushed by champagne, let the cat out of the bag and showed their hands. And into each night there came a large column of light-colored automobiles, which were patrolling the streets, were sent to Mr. Burns. Woman spies occasionally receive money from the government for informing upon operators of "moonshine" stills, wherein whiskey is manufactured in evasion of the internal revenue tax. But the fees paid for this work are much lower than for informing on army and navy deserters. From \$5 to \$10 is paid for each still pointed out and about \$11,000 is annually spent by the Treasury Department for such work together with the employment of natives to form the posse, which, under command of a deputy marshal, undertake the perilous task of raiding the illicit stills, arresting its operator and destroying the apparatus. One of the accompanying photographs shows such a raiding party with the captured moonshiner in handcuffs and the metallic parts of his confiscated "still" perforated with holes to render it useless.

Secret Service Women.

Female sleuths are frequently employed by Chief John E. Wilkie, of the secret service, that best known detective bureau of the government, which President Roosevelt used to expose land frauds and crime in general against the government, until Congress called a halt and confined the scope of this bureau to counterfeiting. The most notable work in which Chief Wilkie used woman detectives was the detection of the Jacobs-Kentig gang at Lancaster, Pa., which, when apprehended, was fully prepared to turn out \$10,000,000 worth of counterfeit revenue stamps and which had already floated the most dangerous and skillfully executed one hundred dollar note ever issued by makers of "the queer." Mr. Wilkie's method of handling such a case is first to keep in touch with every skilled engraver in the country and then to set his man and woman sleuths at work upon all of them until the innocent are sifted out by a process of elimination. Thus the investigation narrows down to several suspects, who are shadowed day and night. The most agreeable of the newly found companions, chums and lovers of the suspects are secret service men or women, and finally the



Woman Detective Who Has Made the Record for Catching Deserters.



Typical Revenue Sleuth.

right man is singled out, even if it takes a year and a half, as in the Lancaster case.

A new government detective bureau has been organized since Congress thus limited the operations of the secret service. This is the bureau of investigation in the Department of Justice. It is in charge of Mr. Stanley W. Finch, a former trusted official of that department, and its activities already compare in breadth with those of the secret service.

The most strenuous activities of this bureau are now being devoted to the detection of the "night riders" and other secret and mysterious factors working against the Attorney General in his battle against the Burley Tobacco Society, or "farmers' trust."

Disguised as Farm Hands.

Disguised as farm hands these new government sleuths hired themselves out in the tobacco district, where the murderous bands of night riders have for years been terrorizing the inhabitants, destroying the farming property, laying waste acres of tobacco lands and whipping and torturing tobacco growers who have declined to enter the pool of the organization, which the President has ordered to be brought to justice for violation of the anti-trust law. While working in the tobacco fields, Mr. Finch has also been in the field masquerading as a "horse buyer" for the British government in South Africa. In search of the far-famed horseflesh of Kentucky. The quantities of letters and streams of cables which he has been receiving here have not excited suspicion, although the letters have been dealt reports from his detectives, scattered about the departments, and although his callers have not been gentlemen with horses for sale, but men who have been secretly punished by the night riders. First he ferreted out the system by which the night riders are organized and then he learned the names of the leaders and lieutenants of the organization in each half county.

Five Other U. S. Detective Forces.

The government has its "spotters" also in the customs service, interstate commerce commission, Post-Office De-



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the goods." The interstate commerce commission sleuth has been an acquisition only since the functions of that railway court were recently enlarged. They investigate violations of the law as to rates, safety appliances, etc. The naturalization sleuth is an even newer actor upon the stage of official events. He sees to it that our new citizens have been within the land of their adoption during the probation period demanded by the law and that they are otherwise qualified for the sacred privileges of American citizenship. The special agents of the public land service are not detectives in the true sense of the word, but they often have considerable "gun shoe" duties to perform in the work of hunting down "dummy entrymen" and the other grafters who are constantly indulging their greed for the people's land. (Copyright, 1910, by the Brentwood Company.)



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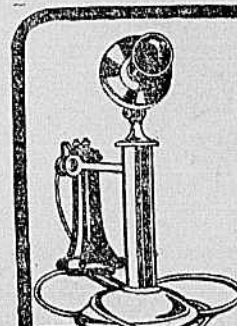
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